

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

February 1, 2005

7:00 PM

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

Mayor Baines called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Porter.

A moment of silent prayer was observed. Mayor Baines asked would everyone keep in their thoughts and prayers Charlie Quinn, the former principal of West High School, a distinguished fighter pilot for the Marines in World War II but more important than that a great citizen of our community and nation and a great human being. We would ask you to keep him in our thoughts and prayers this evening.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Guinta, Sysyn, Osborne, Porter, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, and Forest

Absent: Alderman Thibault

Mayor Baines advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to two minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Baines requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Tracy Degges, 153 Cedar Street, Manchester stated:

I would like to make some comments tonight. I heard that you are all going to be taking a stand on the sewer problem that is in the Valley Street Cemetery and I am for that as well. For too many years the residents in my neighborhood and my back door is in the Valley Street Cemetery, the smell has been horrendous. In the summer we can't even open our windows and our doors because the smell just seeps right through into our houses. Sometimes we can't let our children play outside because the smell is so bad and we don't know what kind of health issues there might be. I just want to say thank you and please keep moving on this issue. I know that things take awhile to get fixed but just remember that those people down there have been living with this for years and it has not gotten any better. Thank you very much.

Glen R.J. Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, Manchester stated:

I have two basic issues. One is the garages. I don't want to see Manchester become another Boston where all of the public garages are sold privately and then the prices are no longer guaranteed and the private individuals can charge what they want. I am not against selling some of our garages but I think we ought to keep some of them. For example, the Victory Garage. You have proven that it is now healthy and it pays for itself. It is actually making a little money. It is one of the best garages that we have. That is one that we ought to keep. My last issue is sewage. I came here last year with a group of people trying to tell you people that there was a health problem around the Pine Street and Auburn Street area and you people were denying that there was a health problem. I am glad to hear now that

you are admitting that there is one and that you are getting some funding to correct that problem. Please listen to the public. Thank you.

Richard Duckoff, 380 North Bay Street, Manchester stated:

I am the Vice-Chairman of Friends of the Valley Street Cemetery and I hope that each and every one of you has actually gone down Auburn Street and seen the new gate. I trust that you have. It is really gorgeous. The scrollwork that is on top has been added from a picture of the scrollwork that was there when it was first built. Actually, it is something that most people alive today would never remember because it happened so long ago that the scrollwork was taken off. It is a really gorgeous gate and we intend to continue work on the fence. We have done it from Willow Street up to the Auburn Street gate and we intend to continue along Auburn Street to Pine Street. Right now the Friends of the Valley Cemetery would be happy to contribute 25% of the cost of that new fence and we hope that in the next few months the funds will be able to be found hopefully with the City's participation to be able to make that possible. The question of the new culvert that would be built from the proposed sewer fee increase is something that is very, very important for the progress of the improvement of the cemetery. If it were delayed, what would happen is it would be a makeshift solution and it would be money that would be thrown into a dark hole and more importantly the work that was done by the Friends of the Valley Cemetery, much of it would have to be torn up if it were done at a later date. I just want to thank the Board in advance for shepherding this in the best possible way to a happy resolution. Thank you very much.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Lopez, duly seconded by Alderman Osborne it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business can be presented and on motion of Alderman Roy, duly seconded by Alderman Smith it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee